Intentionally Decaying Strategy

(Strategi Pembusukan) a threat to architectural heritage, Semarang case.

By: A. Rudyanto Soesilo

Background

Architectural heritage conservation in Semarang, Mid Java, faces many challenges and even threats. There are 2 kinds of architectural heritage conservation in an ex colonized town like Semarang. The first is the heritage located on a declined region, a Bronx to be. The second is the heritage located on a very strategic business area. There are two different threats to each of the the type of the heritage.

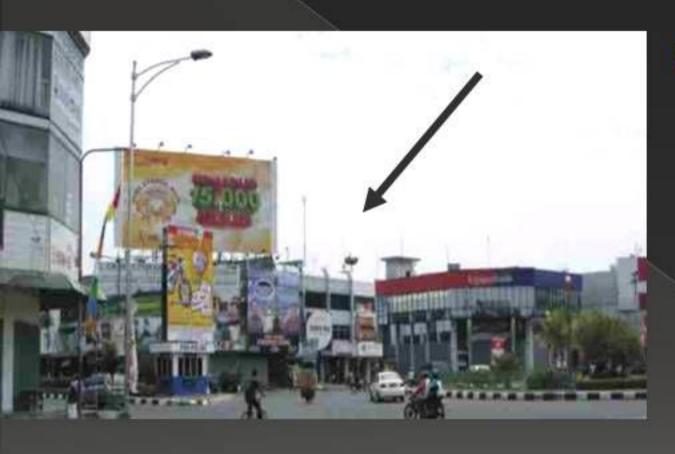
- The first one, inherent with the region's problem, the "destiny" of the architectural heritage as a member of the declined region is really depends on the "destiny" of that region.
- The second one, today, facing many threats because of the conflict of interest between the land-value and the historical-value of the building.
- That conflict triggered a "War" between the building owner with Capitalistic interest, based on the profit of the real-property and the public interest of a historical building. That "War" involving many "actors" and stakeholders, e.g. the investor, the Government, etc. In that "War" many strategies were being used, among them, what the writer calls Intentionally Decaying Strategy.

The "Tug of war" between the Capitalowner interest and the Public interest in the Public space domain - such as the Heritage building - usually let the Publicinterest to be the subordinate. Semarang as one of the old-towns in Indonesial suffer the impact of that Tug of war too.

Intentionally Decaying Strategy,

By this I mean a strategy - planned by the owner of a heritage building - to put many efforts to destruct the owner's (heritage) building on behalf of profit making. So far, many of the architectural heritage in Semarang has suffered Intentionally Decaying Strategy, done by the owner themselves.

The ex First Railway Station at Jurnatan,



Has been abandoned, tore down, demolished and then was developed as Rukos (''Rumah Toko'', Shophouses). At that moment, rose a Magic word: Ruilslag (Holland, Tukarguling, Substitution

Ruilslag

At that moment, rose a Magic word :Ruilslag (Holland, Tukar-guling, Substitution). strategic location, with a New building on another location, usually out of town. While on the (very) strategic location commercial buildings would be developed. The word Ruilslag was then noted as a Magic and very dangerous word to the Heritage building in Semarang. On the Ruilslag movement, the Actors are the Government Officials, the Anggota Dewan (House of Representatives) as the "Owner", the Investor as the Developer.

The ex D.P.U (Dinas Pekerjaaan Umum) Office at Jln. Dr.Jawa



Has been abandoned, tore down, demolished and then was developed as Rukos ("Rumah Toko", Shophouses) and Rukan (Rumah Kantor, Office-Houses). At this case the Mayor announced that he had been "Kecolongan" (experienced a theft) and "lost control" of that building and the Mayor feel "very sorry" about that.

Jalan Raden Patah, Little Nederlands

Jalan Raden Patah, wellknown as Little Nederlands or Kota Lama (Old City), was a district of the old







24 Agsts 2007 PMLP zoedzoes@yzhoo.com S

Coming afterward, Pasar Johar (Central Market),



Pasar Johar (Central Market),

Pasar Johar (Central Market), as a very Historical significant traditional Heritage market, designed by great architect - with a very brilliant frace in Indonesian Architecture -Thomas Karsten, is now being eroted by Intentionally Decaying Strategy too. Pasar Johar is now being announced as , it is moldy and weakened, flooding with Rob water, the electrical installation is damaged, the structure is corroted etc. The Mayor is still threatening to demolished it, with the reason merely just to "jack-up" the building.

Rumah Pemotongan Hewan (Abattoir) Kabluk,





Rumah Pemotongan Hewan (Abattoir) Kabluk,

R.P.H Kabluk, designed by Thomas Karsten, has been "Ruilslag", most pf the site was developed as a Hypermarket, the Abattoir being marginaled and now it is alienated, obsolete, moldy and left alone and according to the scenario of Intentionally Decaying Strategy, it then being forgotten by all the Semarang's people.

Summary:

Architectural heritage conservation in Semarang, Mid Java, faces many challenges and even threats. There are 2 kinds of architectural heritage conservation in an ex colonized town like Semarang. The first is the heritage located on a declined region, a Bronx to be. The second is the heritage located on a very strategic business area.

The second one, today, facing many threats because of the conflict of interest between the land-value and the historical-value of the building. That conflict triggered a "War" between the building owner with Capitalistic interest, based on the profit of the realproperty and the public interest of a historical building. That "War" involving many "actors" and stake-holders, e.g. the investor, the Government, etc. In that "War" many strategies were being used, among them, what the writer calls Intentionally Decaying Strategy.

- The need of Public consciousness and awareness of Intentionally Decaying
 Strategy on Heritage buildings
- The need of Public movement to refuse the Intentionally Decaying Strategy on Heritage buildings
- The need of the Heritage policy on district area except on buldings only.